

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning AB 1524 without my signature.

Existing law implements the laudable public policy of increasing public access to the coast by requiring the Coastal Conservancy to accept all offers to dedicate interests in real property that provide coastal access. This bill would greatly expand the State's financial and legal liability without increasing public access to the coast.

This bill would require the Coastal Conservancy to accept all offers to dedicate interests in real property that do not provide coastal access such as open space easements, view sheds, conservation and agricultural easements that have not been accepted by another agency or nonprofit within 90 days of the expiration date. This bill also exempts the acceptance from approval and review by the Department of Finance and the Department of General Services.

Offers to dedicate are often good for 21 years. The preferred acceptor of these interests is a local jurisdiction or non profit established to manage real property. The State has often been successful in getting these interests accepted and developed in a timely manner. If an interest is not willingly accepted by a local government, park district, or state agency within 21 years, there may be a legitimate reason. This bill does not allow discretion for the State to protect taxpayers or avoid legal liability by not accepting these offers to dedicate.

For these reasons I cannot sign this legislation.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger